



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

December 4, 2009

Dear Parents and School Families,

The announcement and planned closure of Cardinal Dougherty has been and continues to be a painful situation and we recognize that this is a difficult year. The transition for our students to their next school year experience is taking place and many of you have visited other schools and registered your children for next year. As we work through this process there are many well-intentioned people who have ideas or thoughts as to how Cardinal Dougherty High School can be saved. Please know that if it were possible in any way at all to have saved the school then the Archdiocese of Philadelphia would have done so.

We ask that you not give credence to those who would say that Cardinal Dougherty High School will stay open. In the unlikely event that someone purchases the building and re-opens it, the school would not be sponsored by the Archdiocese, it would not be Cardinal Dougherty High School, nor would it automatically be "Catholic." We also would caution that when one is talking about children's educational lives the mission is so critical it should not be left to an untested experiment.

We also ask that you not allow your child's education to be disrupted by missing school to attend protests. This is detrimental to their educational progress and can be further damaging if they are receiving false hope.

We stand ready to assist you and your children during the year ahead. There is quality, Catholic education available at our other Archdiocesan high schools. We understand the pain associated with the closing and are making every effort to make this as smooth a transition as possible. May God watch over and bless all of our students, school families and dedicated faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Rochford".

Mary E. Rochford  
Superintendent of Schools